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pushed into prominence ; he inaugurated the movement for reform of the land tenure with which the latter has become most closely identified. Peel is the connecting link between George III and Gladstone. From the violent anti-Hibernian policy of the former, he eased himself down by slow degrees to a plane of moderation from which the latter has passed to that of free concession. Peel believed that sufficient concession could be made for the common welfare of both islands without a modification of the existing governmental relations. Gladstone has announced his belief that some such modification is necessary. Home rule is not repeal, but it is a compromise between the two extreme views in reference to the union. Back of the question of home rule, however, lies the land question ; and it is the settlement of this, rather than of the former, that is the task laid out for modern statesmen.

WM. A. DUNNING.

The Pioneers and Progress of English Farming. By ROWLAND E. PROTHERO. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1888. — 290 pp.

This book contains a well written review of the history of English agriculture. Emphasis is laid especially upon the periods of change through which it has passed and the causes therefor. The causes of the present agricultural depression in England are traced, and the various remedies which have been proposed are discussed and carefully weighed.

The historical sketch with which the work begins is based upon the hypothesis that the village community was introduced into England by the early German conquerors and prevailed for centuries over more than half of its territory. Upon this was superimposed the Norman manorial system. A combination of the two modes of culture lasted till the close of the Wars of the Roses. Then, corresponding to the downfall of feudalism, occurred the first great crisis in agriculture. It was marked by a general enclosure of commons and the substitution of grazing for the ancient form of tillage, that thereby the wool markets of the continent might be supplied. The motive which led to the change was the desire for greater profit than could be obtained under the mediæval system. Pasturage continued, with periods of depression and prosperity, to be the chief feature of English farming till the latter half of the eighteenth century. Then the development of a much larger market, caused by the rise of the factory system, necessitated another revolution in agriculture. Still more commons were enclosed, pasturage was abandoned and tillage with a system of large farms substituted. Scientific ideas concerning agriculture began to spread. Improvements were introduced in the breed of stock. The cultivation of turnips and clover began. Better

highways, canals, and finally railroads facilitated transportation. War prices, which prevailed especially during the struggle with Napoleon, and the tendency of the corn laws to promote speculation in land, contributed to attract capital towards agriculture, till not only the commons disappeared, but also the English yeoman, the small freeholder. But agriculture upon the large farm system was, previous to 1845, rather extensive than intensive, because it enjoyed the protection of the corn laws. When they were abolished, the landlord and tenant were forced to call in to the fullest extent the help of science, because they must maintain themselves unaided against the competition of the world. Everything seemed to go well till 1873. Seasons were on the whole good. The Civil war in America and the series of struggles in Europe between 1866 and 1871 furnished England with ample markets. But the high prices which they occasioned promoted speculation. The reaction came in the form of the crisis of 1873-78. It has been extremely difficult for agriculture to recover from the effects of this, because of the many poor harvests between 1872 and 1880; because of the appreciation in the value of gold; and last, but chiefly, because of the influence of foreign competition in breadstuffs, meat, and dairy produce.

Having, unlike Professor Rogers, shown that the English landlord system is the direct outgrowth of social necessities, and not the result of spoliation, Mr. Prothero argues further that the time has now come for another revolution in English agriculture equal in thoroughness to those of the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries. He sounds a note of warning however against theories of land nationalization. He protests against the treatment of property in land as if it rested on a basis different from that of personality. He holds that the introduction of peasant proprietorship on a large scale would not remove the depression, because continental countries suffer from it quite as truly as England. Neither would conservative opinion approve of a reduction of the tithe-rent charge. A return to protection is not to be thought of.

The English agriculturists are then, according to Mr. Prothero, to look for relief to reforms in the land laws, facilitating transfers and abolishing entail; to a readjustment of local taxation which shall adapt it to the régime of free trade; to the extension of technical education in agriculture; and to the regulation of railway charges so as to prevent discrimination against the home producer. But after government has done its best, the English landlords and tenants must still depend chiefly upon themselves, if they are to escape from existing difficulties. Mr. Prothero believes that the above remedies would smooth the way for a partial breaking up of estates and a large increase in the number of small farms. The proprietors of these will still find it profitable to breed and fatten the best stock and produce fresh perishable articles of food for

the home market. Continuous, hard, and intelligent labor will be necessary. Many laborers will be thrown out of work. Such a result is incident to all revolutions. But in the end importations of certain important classes of goods will be checked and a situation reached which can be maintained with ease till the present inequalities in international competition pass away.

The book closes with a series of appendices containing valuable statistical material. It furnishes an excellent example of sober argument based upon broad historical research. It would be well for both American protectionists and free-traders, if they would notice how slight is the value which is attributed to their sovereign remedies.

H. L. OSGOOD.

Selections Illustrating Economic History since the Seven Years' War. Compiled by BENJAMIN RAND, Ph.D. Cambridge, Waterman and Amee, 1888. — 8vo, vii, 367 pp.

This volume is designed to offer students attending lectures in economic history a course of reading illustrating the most important episodes in this field since 1763. The compiler, however, has also consulted the interests of the general reader. The exact character of the work may be shown by a brief list of the contents better than by any description. The "Colonial System" is naturally the first subject, and upon it are given the leading sections of the English navigation acts and Adam Smith's discussion of it. The effect of the great inventions is shown by a selection from Walpole's *History of England*. On the economic condition of Europe in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic age, the compiler gives us von Sybel's valuable introductory chapter to his history of the Revolution, a discussion of the emancipating edict of Stein from Prof. Seeley's *Life of Stein*, a discussion of the Orders in Council from Levi's *History of British Commerce*, and a review of English finances from 1793-1815 from Porter's *Progress of the Nation*. Five chapters are devoted to the next fifty years, and comprise the following subjects: the *Zollverein* is described from Bowring's Parliamentary report of 1840 with statistical information from Legoyt's *La France et l'étranger*. Next come another selection from Levi, discussing the corn laws, two essays by Cairnes on *The New Gold*, and a review of the financial history of France under the second empire from Levasseur's *Histoire des classes ouvrières en France, depuis 1789 jusqu'à nos jours*. Four chapters are devoted to the last twenty-five years. In them we have a description of the way in which the French indemnity was paid, from an article in *Blackwood's Magazine* (Feb. 1875) based on Léon Say's report, together with a statement of what was done with